Top Stories

- Five foreign men were arrested during a courthouse break-in in San Antonio, October 19, and police said they found photographs of public buildings, water systems, and malls from various U.S. cities in their van. *Reuters* (See item 29)
- A powerful new computer virus that shares the same source code as the notorious Stuxnet virus has infected critical infrastructure computers around the world, said Symantec Corp. researchers. *msnbc.com* (See item <u>35</u>)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical:</u> LOW, <u>Cyber:</u> LOW Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. October 18, Glenwood Springs Post Independent – (Colorado) State, Noble confirm 46 hydrogen sulfide incidents. Dangerously high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide gas (H2S) was detected 46 times at 15 Noble Energy gas drilling well pads in the Parachute Creek basin in Colorado over the past 3 years, the Glenwood Springs Post Independent reported October 18. The newspaper said Noble's community relations director indicated that in most of the incidents, gas was detected at between 100 parts per million (ppm) and 200 ppm, with one instance at 450 ppm. Federal regulations list

H2S as potentially toxic under lengthy exposure at 10 ppm. At 100 to 200 ppm, inhalation causes coughing and breathing difficulties, severe eye irritation, and loss of sense of smell. The gas is fatal at levels of 500 to 700 ppm. He said the sampling results do not mean H2S is present at high levels over long periods. That means the gas stays in the well, pipes and storage vessels "all the way to the point of sale. There is no emission or escape route." However, when unacceptably high levels of H2S occur in the gas stream, as is common in what are known as "sour gas" fields, the H2S is separated out before the gas is directed into pipelines for shipment. Eleven of the 15 wells recorded only one instance each in which H2S topped 100 ppm, according to a spreadsheet documenting the H2S incidents provided by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC). The COGCC requires operators to inform the agency any time H2S is detected at a well pad. Three of the wells had samples topping 100 ppm on three to seven instances. But one well tallied 21 samples of H2S over 100 ppm, from August 2009 until January 2010.

Source:

http://www.postindependent.com/article/20111018/VALLEYNEWS/111019885/1083 &ParentProfile=1074

For more stories, see items 35 and 40

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Chemical Industry Sector

- 2. October 19, University of Minnesota Daily (Minnesota) Week-old chemical spill leaks onto U property. A chemical spill seeping onto University of Minnesota property in the Southeast Como neighborhood in Minneapolis has yet to be removed after being cornered off for nearly a week, the University of Minnesota Daily reported October 19. About 500 gallons of potassium hydroxide a toxic and corrosive chemical used in bleaching, biodiesel and soap being delivered to the Hawkins Inc. plant spilled during a transfer. Hawkins is a formulator, manufacturer, blender, distributor, and sales agent for more than 500 industrial chemicals, and 600 reagent grade laboratory chemicals, according to its Web site. The back of University Stores North property was cornered off with safety tape as of the afternoon October 18. An environmental contractor was hired to conduct the cleanup, scheduled for the morning of October 19, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. An agency spokesman said the spill did not pose any immediate health risks.
 Source: http://www.mndaily.com/2011/10/19/week-old-chemical-spill-leaks-u-property
- 3. October 19, Indianapolis Star (International) Ex-Dow scientist admits theft of trade secrets to help China. A scientist who once worked for Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis pleaded guilty October 18 in federal court to stealing company secrets to benefit the People's Republic of China. He also pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a trade secret when he worked for a Minnesota company, Cargill, after he was fired by Dow. The scientist faces up to 15 years in prison on the Indiana charge, which was brought under the U.S. Economic Espionage Act of 1996, and 10 years in prison on the Minnesota charge. An assistant U.S. attorney said the convict pilfered trade secrets

valued at \$7 million to \$20 million concerning organic pesticides and components of new food products. He later gave the information to a student at Hunan Normal University in China, authorities said. The convict was indicted by a federal grand jury in June 2010. Federal authorities said the scientist stood to gain financially if he was able to produce the products he stole. He had begun directing research at Hunan Normal using the trade secrets. Hunan is a government-controlled institute in China that received grants for the continuing research.

Source: http://www.indystar.com/article/20111019/LOCAL0101/110190322/Ex-Dow-scientist-pleads-guilty-stealing-trade-secrets-help-China?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com

4. October 19, Parkersburg News and Sentinel – (West Virginia) Cleanup plan presented for Tyler facility. The West Virginia Department of Transportation's Division of Highways (DOH) has submitted a voluntary remediation application to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to clean up a former DOH facility in Tyler County, the Parkersburg News and Sentinel reported October 19. The site covers 2.87 acres in Sistersville. It now serves as a storage facility for the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Petroleum products for refueling DOH vehicles were once stored at the site, but the underground storage tanks have been removed, state officials said. The DOH is working with the DEP's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) to address environmental conditions, state officials said. Chemicals of potential concern are chlorides associated with road salt application and storage, PCBs, metals, and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. The OER and DOH are negotiating a voluntary remediation agreement that will identify human health and ecological risks associated with current and potential future uses of the site, and establish appropriate cleanup standards, state officials said.

Source: http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/553193/Cleanup-plan-presented-for-Tyler-facility.html?nav=5061

5. October 18, Safety.BLR.com – (Massachusetts) Company facing fines for injuries from explosion. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Bostik, Inc., a maker of adhesives, for 50 alleged violations of job safety standards following a March explosion at the company's Middleton, Massachusetts plant, Safety.BLR.com reported October 18. The company faces \$917,000 in proposed fines. Four employees were injured. OSHA inspectors identified several serious deficiencies in Bostik's process safety management (PSM) program. PSM requirements and procedures address hazards associated with processes and equipment involving large amounts of hazardous chemicals. The chemical in this case was acetone. On the day of the explosion, a transfer line valve was inadvertently left open. This resulted in the release of flammable acetone vapors ignited by an undetermined source. An area OSHA director said Bostik knew from prior audits that its PSM program was incomplete, but did not take steps to correct the problems. The citations included nine willfuls for a variety of PSM failings.

Source: http://safety.blr.com/workplace-safety-news/safety-administration/OSHA-and-state-safety-compliance-enforcement/Company-Facing-Fines-for-Injuries-from-Explosion/

For more stories, see items 23, 24, and 35

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. October 17, Reuters – (Ohio) FirstEnergy finds cracks at Ohio nuclear reactor. FirstEnergy said it discovered small cracks in the concrete shield building surrounding the containment structure at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant near Oak Harbor, Ohio, which was shut for another reactor vessel head replacement, a spokesman for the Ohio-based energy company said October 17. "We don't believe there will be a problem with the schedule to replace the vessel head. Engineers are conducting a thorough investigation of the cracks. We should have an answer later this week," a FirstEnergy spokesman told Reuters. The spokesman said the "microcracks" at Davis-Besse were barely visible. He said they were discovered while workers were cutting away the concrete with pressurized water to create an opening for a new vessel head.

Source:

http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1E79G0KR20111017?sp=true

7. October 17, U.S. Energy Information Administration – (National) Nuclear outages back within typical range since July following springtime surge. U.S. nuclear generator outages were above the levels of the previous 4 years in the second quarter of 2011, but have returned to more typical seasonal levels since the start of July 2011, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported October 17. Nuclear reactor operators typically schedule maintenance in the spring and the fall to help ensure the reactors are available to meet peak electric demand in the summer and winter. Spring 2011 nuclear outages were unusually high due to the confluence of the refueling season and several forced outages, including outages due to weather events (such as tornadoes or flooding). Outages in recent months have largely trended within the 2007-2010 range.

Source: http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=3510

For another story, see item <u>35</u>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

See item 35

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. October 19, Associated Press – (National) 2 Maryland men plead guilty to identity theft charges; ring involved more than 250 victims. Prosecutors said two Maryland men pleaded guilty October 18 to being involved in an identity theft ring involving more than 250 victims in the Washington D.C. area. The two pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. Prosecutors said the two men recruited, trained, and paid restaurant servers to swipe customer credit cards through a skimmer that would record the credit card numbers. They would then use the stolen numbers to re-encode cards to make purchases. Prosecutors said the pair made thousands of fraudulent transactions between January 2010 and June of this year throughout Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/2-maryland-men-plead-guilty-to-identity-theft-charges-ring-involved-more-than-250-victims/2011/10/19/gIQA3uijwL story.html

9. October 19, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission – (National) Citigroup to pay \$285 million to settle SEC charges for misleading investors about CDO tied to housing market. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) October 19 charged Citigroup's principal U.S. broker-dealer subsidiary with misleading investors about a \$1 billion collateralized debt obligation (CDO) tied to the U.S. housing market in which Citigroup bet against investors as the housing market showed signs of distress. The CDO defaulted within months, leaving investors with losses while Citigroup made \$160 million in fees and trading profits. The SEC alleged Citigroup Global Markets structured and marketed a CDO called Class V Funding III and exercised significant influence over the selection of \$500 million of the assets included in the CDO portfolio. Citigroup then took a proprietary short position against those mortgage-related assets from which it would profit if the assets declined in value. Citigroup did not disclose to investors its role in the asset selection process, or that it took a short position against the assets it helped select. Citigroup has agreed to settle the SEC's charges by paying \$285 million, which will be returned to investors. The SEC also charged the Citigroup employee primarily responsible for structuring the CDO transaction. The agency brought separate settled charges against Credit Suisse's asset management unit, which served as the collateral manager for the CDO transaction, as well as the Credit Suisse portfolio manager primarily responsible for the transaction. The settlement is subject to court approval. Citigroup consented to the entry of a final judgment that enjoins it from violating these provisions. The settlement requires Citigroup to pay \$160 million in disgorgement, plus \$30 million in prejudgment interest and a \$95 million penalty for a total of \$285 million that will be returned to investors through a Fair Fund distribution. The settlement also requires remedial action by Citigroup in its review and approval of offerings of certain mortgage-related securities.

Source: http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2011/2011-214.htm

10. October 19, Bloomberg – (Texas; International) BNP Paribas sued by U.S. over alleged commodities payment guarantee scheme. BNP Paribas SA was sued October

18 by the United States over allegations the Paris-based bank aided a grain export fraud scheme involving commodity payment guarantees provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A corporate banker in BNP's Houston office allegedly helped a scheme that defrauded the Agriculture Department of at least \$78 million through deals he made with four U.S. grain exporters, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Houston. The banker knew the exporters were secretly controlled by the same foreign businessman who owned the companies importing the shipments into Mexico, according to the complaint.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-18/bnp-paribas-sued-by-u-s-over-alleged-commodities-payment-guarantee-scheme.html

11. October 19, Bay City News Service – (California; Nevada) 'Mr. Magoo Bandit' suspect surrenders to FBI. An arrest was made October 18 in connection with a series of bank robberies throughout California committed by a man law enforcement officials have dubbed the "Mr. Magoo Bandit." The suspect voluntarily surrendered to FBI agents in San Diego after he was advised he was being sought by law enforcement in connection with a series of bank robberies, FBI officials said October 18. FBI officials said the suspect confessed to robbing a U.S. Bank in San Diego September 7. The U.S. Bank robbery is one of 12 heists FBI officials believe were committed by the Mr. Magoo Bandit. The bandit was linked to three bank robberies in the Bay Area. The first occurred at a U.S. Bank in Novato August 29, followed by a heist at a Chase Bank in South San Francisco September 17, and a Chase Bank in San Francisco, FBI officials said. Six of the robberies occurred in San Diego, and one each occurred in Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and Henderson, Nevada. The bandit made no attempt to disguise himself and had a calm demeanor, according to the FBI. The suspect used a note to demand cash from tellers and, in some instances, even thanked his victims, law officials said.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_19146021

12. October 18, Jersey City Jersey Journal – (New Jersey; New York) Jersey City man pleads guilty in \$33M life insurance scheme. A Jersey City, New Jersey, man who was a New York City insurance producer pleaded guilty October 17 to defrauding three insurance companies in a \$33 million life insurance policy scheme, officials said. He pleaded guilty to insurance fraud, and two counts of theft by deception. The man, who was licensed in New York and New Jersey, admitted that between November 12, 2006 and June 4, 2008, he made fraudulent or misleading statements including fraudulent financial and medical documentation to support seven life insurance policy applications, officials said. The applications were for three \$3 million life insurance policies, two \$5 million policies, and two \$7 million policies, officials said. He also admitted that between May 17, 2007 and June 20, 2007, he fraudulently obtained a \$7 million life insurance policy and \$280,230 from one of the companies as commission for that policy, officials said. Finally, he admitted that between October 16, 2007 and December 4, 2007, he fraudulently obtained a \$61,898 premium reimbursement and a \$150,000 unsecured loan from another policy provider, official said. On June 7, 2010, the man was sentenced to 3 years in state prison, ordered to forfeit his New Jersey insurance producer's license, and to pay a \$10,000 fine after pleading guilty to two counts of insurance fraud April 12, 2010, officials said. In this earlier case, the man

admitted that between May 22, 2008 and July 27, 2009, he submitted applications containing fraudulent information to secure two \$7 million life insurance policies, officials said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/10/jersey_city_man_pleads_guilty_9.html

13. October 18, Bloomberg – (Texas) SEC wins asset freeze in alleged mortgage restructuring scheme. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) October 18 won a court order to freeze the assets of a Texas man and his company, claiming he raised at least \$35 million by falsely telling investors he was using their money to buy and restructure pools of non-performing home mortgages. The man, who raised the money since 2008 through his firm Stewardship Fund LP, created false documents, made unauthorized financial transactions, and used new customers' funds to pay off earlier investors, the SEC said in an complaint unsealed in U.S. district court. In several instances, he claimed to own mortgages he never acquired or purported to transfer the same pool of mortgages to multiple sets of investors. He has been the subject of at least one state court asset freeze and private lawsuits filed by different investor groups, the SEC said. He ignored the other asset freeze, and raised money from new investors to settle suits filed by earlier investors, according to the SEC. "[He] took advantage of investors who believed their investments were helping homeowners restructure their mortgages," the head of the SEC's regional office in Fort Worth, Texas, said in a statement. "In many instances, it appears [he] was just pocketing the investments and using the proceeds for his own illicit purposes." The SEC is seeking unspecified financial penalties and disgorgement of ill-gotten profits.

Source: http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-10-18/sec-wins-asset-freeze-in-alleged-mortgage-restructuring-scheme.html

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Transportation Sector

14. October 18, Washington Post – (Maryland) Hairline cracks found in three **Intercounty Connector overpasses.** Inspectors have found hairline cracks in three newly built overpasses on the Intercounty Connector (ICC) in Maryland, requiring that parts of their concrete piers be reinforced immediately and perhaps rebuilt, ICC officials said October 18. Inspectors for the Maryland State Highway Administration discovered the cracks the week of October 10 on bridges that carry traffic across the six-lane ICC on Georgia Avenue, Emory Lane, and Needwood Road in Montgomery County, officials said. The \$2.56 billion toll highway's 7.2-mile western segment opened in February 2011 between Interstate 370 and just east of Georgia Avenue. ICC officials said the overpasses are safe for motorists to continue using, but will need to be reinforced or rebuilt to last for the 50 to 100 years of a typical bridge's life span. Some lanes of the ICC will probably be closed over the next 2 weeks as workers reinforce the pier structures with tensioned steel wire until a long-term solution can be found, ICC officials said. All three bridges will remain open, they said. The ICC project spokesman said inspectors found 40 to 50 concrete cracks in the three overpasses' combined 13 "pier caps." The caps sit atop the supporting piers and connect them to the overpasses'

steel understructure. The cracks are .005 to .035 inches wide and range from 7 inches to 3 feet 8 inches long, the spokesman said. The state's director of the ICC construction project said the cracks stem from a design flaw and that Intercounty Constructors, the joint venture of construction firms that built the project, will pay to fix them. The design firm used an inaccurate model to determine how many steel rods were needed inside the concrete pier caps to properly fortify them, she said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/hairline-cracks-found-in-three-intercounty-connector-overpasses/2011/10/18/gIQAzf5ZvL story.html

15. October 18, Amarillo Globe-News – (Texas) Southwest flight lands in Amarillo after passenger becomes unruly. Amarillo, Texas police arrested a California man who airport officials said disrupted Southwest Airlines flight 3683 from Los Angeles to Kansas City, officials said. The man was arrested on a charge of interference with a flight crew. "It came in here because — I'm assuming — the crew determined it was the best place to get on the ground," the Amarillo aviation director said. He said an emergency call was placed about 3:30 p.m. to the flight tower at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport. The caller initially reported a male passenger was attempting to break into the cockpit. The plane landed without incident at the Amarillo airport and was transported to Gate 7 of the new terminal, he said. Amarillo police took the man into custody and he was questioned by federal authorities before being transported to Randall County Jail, officials said. More than a dozen detectives arrived at the airport to gather affidavits from the estimated 200 passengers on the flight, officials said.

Source: http://amarillo.com/news/latest-news/2011-10-18/southwest-flight-lands-amarillo-after-attempted-cockpit-break#.Tp7Q5XKO7To

For more stories, see items 1, 40, and 47

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. October 19, msnbc.com – (National) Dirty equipment blamed for deadly outbreak in cantaloupe. Potentially contaminated processing equipment and problems with packing and storage of whole cantaloupes at a Colorado farm likely led to the deadliest listeria outbreak in the United States in 25 years, which has so far claimed 25 lives in a dozen states, federal health regulators said October 18. Pools of water on the floor of the Jensen Farms packing facility in Granada, Colorado, equipment that was not easily cleaned and sanitized, and failure to cool newly harvested cantaloupes before sending them to cold storage all contributed to the outbreak, the first-ever listeria contamination blamed on whole melons, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials said.

"We are quite confident and certain," that those factors led to the outbreak blamed so far for 123 illnesses in 26 states, said a senior advisor to the FDA's CORE Network in the Office of Foods, who spoke at the news conference. Investigators tested fruit samples and equipment from Jensen Farms and confirmed the presence of four outbreak strains of the listeria monocytogenes bacteria confirmed in the illnesses and deaths. The FDA said Jensen Farms had recently bought used equipment that was corroded and hard to clean. In addition, a truck used to haul culled cantaloupe to a cattle operation was parked near the facility and could have introduced contamination to the facility, investigators said. Low levels of listeria in the field also could have introduced the bacteria into the packing facility. And the design of the plant allowed stagnant water to pool on the floor. The FDA had not inspected the farm before the September 10 session that first detected listeria problems. Jensen Farms has voluntarily agreed to correct all problems found in the inspection, an FDA Commissioner told reporters. In addition, the firm has agreed not to process, pack, or distribute produce until the agency approves.

Source: http://vitals.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/10/19/8397950-dirty-equipment-blamed-for-deadly-outbreak-in-cantaloupe

17. October 19, Food Safety News – (Montana; Washington) Q Fever in the Pacific Northwest. An outbreak of Q fever, carried by domestic goats, infected about 20 people in Montana and Washington state in the spring of 2011, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported in its October 14 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Four people were hospitalized, but no deaths were reported, and some infected people showed no symptoms. The outbreak became known in April, when the Q fever bacterium Coxiella burnetii was detected in a goat placenta collected from a Washington farm that had reported a high rate of aborted goat pregnancies. Goats from the farm had been sold across the region, and health officials eventually detected C. burnetii in goats at 21 farms, most of them in Washington and Montana. C. burnetii is considered highly infectious, is persistent in the environment and can travel many miles when windborne. Cattle, sheep, and goats are the primary carriers, and the organisms are excreted in milk, urine, and feces of infected animals. Human-to-human transmission is rare.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/q-fever-in-the-pacific-northwest/

18. October 19, Concord Monitor – (New Hampshire; Massachusetts) OSHA may fine grocer \$589,000. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is threatening to levy more than \$589,000 in fines on the parent company of Market Basket for alleged safety violations at its supermarkets in Rindge in Concord, New Hampshire, the Concord Monitor reported October 19. The company, Tewksbury, Massachusetts-based DeMoulas Supermarkets Inc., responded October 18 with a statement saying it has a strong record on safety and "does not agree with many of the conclusions reached by OSHA." The federal agency said employees at both Market Basket locations were put at risk by being made to work on top of storage lofts, freezers, and coolers — more than 11 feet above the ground — without proper guardrails, among other cited violations. A worker at the Rindge supermarket fell 11 feet onto a concrete floor in April, breaking bones and sustaining head trauma, the agency said in a news release. Company officials are scheduled to meet with OSHA

personnel October 26 to discuss the case, according to an area director in the OSHA's Concord office.

Source: http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/286777/osha-may-fine-grocer-589000

19. October 18, The Guardian – (International) Contaminated meat affected more than 100 players at Under-17 World Cup. More than 100 players at the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under-17 World Cup soccer tournament in Mexico the summer of 2011 tested positive for the banned drug clenbuterol due to contaminated meat, the Guardian reported October 18. FIFA's chief medical officer revealed October 17 that players from 19 of the 24 squads involved had shown traces of the substance after analysis of urine samples. However, he insisted there was no harm to the players exposed to the contaminated food in June. The FIFA ordered meat samples to be collected from team hotels and 30 percent of these showed the presence of clenbuterol. The Mexican government has made a number of arrests and closed down several slaughterhouses after being alerted to the issue, according to an official from Mexico's health ministry.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Source: $\underline{http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/oct/18/fifa-clenbuterol-contaminated-meat?newsfeed=true \end{tabular}$

20. October 18, Associated Press – (International) Salmon virus raises concerns in US, Canada. Scientists in Washington state are working to improve testing of a deadly, contagious marine virus as a precaution, after the virus was detected in wild salmon for the first time on the West Coast, the Associated Press reported October 18. Researchers with Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and elsewhere announced October 17 they found the influenza-like virus in two juvenile sockeye salmon collected from the province's central coast. The virus, which does not affect humans, has caused losses at fish farms in Chile and other areas, and could have devastating impacts on wild salmon in the region and other species that depend on them, the researchers said. The virus was found in 2 of 48 juvenile sockeye salmon collected as part of a long-term study led by a Simon Fraser University professor.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44952384/ns/us_news-environment/#.Tp7qYnJnAYI

For more stories, see items 3, 8, 10, 25, and 42

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Water Sector

21. October 19, York Dispatch – (Pennsylvania) Flood caused more than \$94K in damage to York treatment plant. The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee sent millions of gallons of extra water flowing into the wastewater treatment plant in September, temporarily compromising operations and causing more than \$94,000 in damage. The York City Council approved a budget transfer October 18 to restore those funds to the plant's 2011 coffers. The plant manager said he intends to file a claim with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement of those funds. Insurance money

could also cover part of the damage costs, he said. Source: http://www.yorkdispatch.com/news/ci_19140711

22. October 19, El Centro Imperial Valley Press – (California) Brawley to shut off some water to replace six valves; work expected to take seven hours. Work crews are scheduled to replace six main valves on a damaged water pipeline the week of October 24 in Brawely, California, a city official said October 17. The Brawley Public Works director told the city council that the work requires lowering water pressure in an 8-block radius for the 16-inch, 14-inch, and 8-inch water valve installations. Council members adopted a resolution declaring an emergency calling for the valve installations to take place overnight October 26 and 27. A water leak was discovered on the 16-inch pipeline on First Street, and the 8-inch cast iron pipeline is located in the same area. The discovery of the leak prompted the development of a plan to repair the leak by replacing the valves and eliminating sections of the 8-inch cast iron pipeline. Other work includes digging and excavating six pits measuring 8 feet long and 8 feet wide for the valve replacement, and installing valve components.

Source: http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/ivp-news-brawley-to-shut-off-some-water-to-replace-six-valves-work-expected-to-take-seven-hours-20111019,0,2620565.story

23. October 18, Asheville Citizen-Times – (North Carolina) EPA 'demands' \$6.5M for CTS site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) demanded the current and former owners of the CTS electroplating plant site in Syland, North Carolina to "reimburse EPA for its costs incurred to date," about \$6.5 million, for contaminated groundwater, the Asheville Citizen-Times reported October 18. Federal regulators sent letters September 13 after a long-running fight over groundwater residents said caused health problems, including tumors in children. The EPA has been investigating contamination at and around the CTS plant since 1990. The Superfund site contains high levels of the industrial solvent trichloroethylene, which has contaminated wells and other groundwater.

Source: http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20111018/NEWS/310170057/EPA-demands-6-5M-CTS-site?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

24. October 18, Nashville Tennessean – (Tennessee) Tennessee waters get drug test. Traces of chemicals that may disrupt hormonal and immune systems, including several personal care products, have shown up in the drinking water of 6 of 11 utilities tested across Tennessee, according to a new report. The Nashville Tennessean reported October 18 that testing of the lake, river, and ground water at scores of utility intakes statewide, including in Nashville and nearby counties, disclosed these same substances and a variety of others. The impact these small amounts of chemicals might have on health and the environment in the state is not known. The materials included the insect repellent DEET, ibuprofen, caffeine, detergents, an antiseptic in some hand sanitizers, hormones, and two chemical compounds found in plastics. None rose above any existing hazard index. However, only 1 of the 17 chemicals has a regulatory limit with health-based standards, the herbicide atrazine.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \underline{http://www.tennessean.com/article/20111018/NEWS11/310180031/Tennessee-waters-get-drug-test}$

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. October 19, Staten Island Advocate – (New York) Ice cream man gets 3 1/2 years in the cooler for distributing oxycodone. A man from the Pleasant Plains section of Staten Island, New York, who spearheaded a million-dollar drug ring by dealing oxycodone out of an ice cream truck was sentenced October 18 to three and a half years in prison on felony drug-possession and conspiracy convictions. Prosecutors said his group, which contained a reputed mafia crime family soldier, distributed some 42,755 oxycodone pills on the South Shore in Staten Island in 2009 and 2010. Another key member was a women who managed the physician's office and supplied hundreds of prescription forms from a doctor's office. She also ran telephone interference if a pharmacist became suspicious and called the doctor, said a special narcotics prosecutor. The crew replenished its supply by recruiting 28 "runners," many of whom were addicts desperate for cash, to fill forged prescriptions on the supplied forms. The scheme fell apart in June of last year when a runner robbed a series of pharmacies, including one where he had earlier tried to pass a forged prescription, which caught the attention of a state health department investigator. The investigator pulled the doctor's files and found it suspicious that so many Staten Island patients would be going to a Manhattan physician to procure painkiller prescriptions. Source:

http://www.silive.com/southshore/index.ssf/2011/10/ice_cream_man_gets_3_years_in.html

26. October 17, Associated Press – (Kentucky) Arrest made after bomb threats to hospital. Police in Kentucky have charged a man with terroristic threatening for allegedly calling in 10 phony bomb threats to Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset. Police said they arrested the man October 16 after a week-long investigation that began with a bomb-threat call to the hospital October 8. A second call saying a bomb was in the hospital was made October 13, and there were eight more calls in 2 days over the weekend of October 15 and 16. Police were able to trace the calls. The man was identified and later arrested at his home in Clay County. He is charged with 10 felony counts of second-degree terroristic threatening. The U.S. Secret Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assisted local police in the investigation.

Source: http://www.wtvq.com/news/9986-arrest-made-after-bomb-threats-to-hospital

For more stories, see items 17, 32, and 33

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Government Facilities Sector

27. October 19, Cleveland Plain Dealer – (Ohio) Pipe bomb found, defused at Ravenna vo-tech school. A pipe bomb found October 18 at a Ravenna, Ohio vocational school was defused by the Summit County Bomb Disposal Unit. Ravenna police and fire departments were called to the Maplewood Joint Vocational School after the device was found. Police said it was made of a PVC pipe with end caps and a fuse. The school was evacuated. The Summit County Bomb Disposal Unit responded with a bomb-detection dog and a remote-controlled robot. The bomb was moved to a remote part of the parking lot, where it was rendered safe. Officials did not indicate whether the device contained explosive materials. No other bombs were found. A teenage student was interviewed, but no charges were filed.

Source:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/10/pipe bomb found defused at rav.html

28. October 19, Associated Press – (Ohio) Zoo owner sets exotic animals free, kills himself. Townspeople cowered indoors October 19 as deputies with high-powered rifles hunted down and killed lions, bears, and dozens of other exotic beasts that escaped from a wild-animal preserve after the owner threw their cages open and committed suicide in Zanesville, Ohio. After an all-night hunt October 18 into October 19, at least 30 of the 48 escaped animals had been gunned down. As of mid-morning, October 19, officers were still hunting for a grizzly bear, mountain lion, and monkey. Schools closed, parents were warned to keep children and pets indoors, and flashing signs along highways told motorists, "Caution exotic animals" and "Stay in vehicle." Officers in the mostly rural area about 55 miles east of Columbus were under orders to shoot to kill for fear that animals hit with tranquilizer darts would run off and hide in the darkness. The owner of the preserve left the cages open and the fences unsecured, releasing dozens of animals, including lions, tigers, bears, and wolves, before committing suicide, said the Muskingum County sheriff. Authorities would not say how he killed himself, and no suicide note was found. The owner had had repeated runins with the law, and the sheriff said his office had received numerous complaints since 2004 about animals at the property. The Columbus Zoo director said that of the three animals believed to be unaccounted for, he was most concerned about the mountain lion, because of its impressive leaping ability.

Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EXOTIC_ANIMALS_LOOSE?SITE=CAVEN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

29. October 19, Reuters – (Texas) San Antonio break-in sparks FBI involvement: police. Five foreign men were arrested during a courthouse break-in October 19, and police said they found photographs of public buildings, water systems, and malls from various U.S. cities in their van in San Antonio. The men, at least three of whom were in their 20s, will be questioned by a joint terrorism task force including the FBI and immigration authorities, officials said. The Bexar County spokeswoman said three men were found inside the 120-year-old Bexar County Courthouse, a landmark in downtown San Antonio, and two in a large recreational vehicle parked in front of the building. She said all five were Moroccans. Inside the RV, officials said they found

"photographs of infrastructure" including shopping malls, water systems, courthouses, and other public buildings that they say were taken in cities across the United States. "They got travel documents, parking passes, they have been all over the country," a police captain said. "A lot of photographic equipment, a lot of documentation equipment (was) inside their vehicle. They are going to be held for interrogation by the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the joint terrorism task force," the captain said. San Antonio is home to three major military bases, and officials have notified them of the incident, and have told them to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity and vehicles. A military intelligence convention is underway at the city's convention center several blocks away, with top intelligence officials including White House officials set to speak, but investigators did not say whether there was any connection.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/19/us-texas-crime-break-in-idUSTRE79I3BX20111019

For more stories, see items 2 and 4

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Emergency Services Sector

- 30. October 19, Los Angeles Daily News (California) Los Angeles county officials approve measures to stop abuse of inmates in jails. Disturbed by reports of deputies beating inmates at county jails in Los Angeles, the county board of supervisors urged the sheriff October 18 to install surveillance cameras and implement other reforms that had been proposed years ago but never implemented. It also voted to create a fivemember citizens commission to review alleged abuse and recommend changes. The board's recommendations included installing surveillance cameras at the Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers within 30 days; forbidding deputies to strike inmates on the head unless lethal force is warranted; and requiring medical personnel in county jails to report suspicious injuries sustained by inmates. It also called for assigning deputies to different floors every 6 months, to prevent them from forming what the American Civil Liberties Union has called "gangs" inside the jails. There was also a suggestion to have random and targeted sting operations to identify dirty deputies; and to complete the most severe investigations within 30 days. A supervisor said the sheriff should weigh each of the proposals over the next 2 weeks, and select which ones to implement. Source: http://www.officer.com/news/10438915/los-angeles-county-officials-approvemeasures-to-stop-abuse-of-inmates-in-jails
- 31. October 18, WPBF 25 Tequesta (Florida) South Fla. corrections officers guilty of abusing inmates. Two South Florida corrections officers accused of choking, punching, and hitting prisoners with wooden broom handles have been found guilty, WPBF 25 Tequesta reported October 18. They were convicted October 17 of obstruction of justice by a federal jury in Miami. One was also convicted of conspiring to violate the civil rights of inmates. Prosecutors claimed corrections officers at the South Florida Reception Center abused the inmates and forced them to fight each other. Prosecutors said the two corrections officers also falsified reports relating to the

incidents. One of the corrections officers faces up to 30 years in prison and the other faces up to 20 years in prison when they are sentenced in January.

Source: http://www.wpbf.com/news/29517968/detail.html?hpt=ju_bn4

32. October 18, Washington Post – (Maryland) Mass casualty drill planned in Maryland. Thirteen Maryland hospitals participated in an emergency response drill October 19 to test the region's ability to handle a mass casualty terrorist attack. The so-called "Capital Shield" drill, part of a series of exercises conducted by the military and local and state response units, was designed to simulate the transport and treatment of mock victims to area hospitals. First responders and hospital staff practiced rescues, triage, treatment, and decontamination procedures, and transporting people by helicopter and ambulance, organizers said. The exercise was held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. October 19, starting at Montgomery County Fire Rescue Training Academy in Rockville. Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, St. Mary's, and Charles County hospitals as well as Montgomery and Prince George's County EMS tested their response. The University of Maryland's Center for Health and Homeland Security will evaluate the drill.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/mass-casualty-drill-planned-in-maryland/2011/10/18/gIQAMUNduL_blog.html

33. October 18, Dallas Morning News – (Texas) Denton emergency room evacuated after man threatens to kill himself, donate organs. An armed man who wanted to shoot himself in the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital parking lot in Denton, Texas October 18 caused an evacuation of its emergency room. A Denton police spokesman said officers phoned the man and began tracking his cell signal about 11:15 a.m., after his ex-wife told police he had sent her suicidal text messages. By 3 p.m., the spokesman stated, the man had parked his vehicle in front of the emergency room. Police cleared the ER while they negotiated with the man, the spokesman said, talking him out of the vehicle peacefully about 45 minutes later. The man did have a gun, he said, but police do not expect to charge him with anything. He was in the custody of Denton County mental health authorities October 18.

Source: http://crimeblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2011/10/denton-emergency-room-evacuate.html

For more stories, see items 28 and 37

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Information Technology Sector

34. *October 19, The H Security* – (International) **Kaspersky discovers new version of German state-sponsored trojan.** Virus analysts at Kaspersky Labs discovered a new version of a trojan written for the German government by Digitask, The H Security reported October 19. It supports 64-bit versions of Windows and is able to monitor many more applications. The "big brother" of the trojan analyzed by the Chaos Computer Club (CCC) is made up of five files. They were found in an installation program by the name of scuinst.exe (Skype CaptureUnit Installer), recently detected by

F-Secure. In addition to Skype, the list of processes monitored by the trojan includes other voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications, browsers, and e-mail and instant messaging clients. The researchers also discovered a 64-bit driver signed using a certificate issued by fictitious CA Goose Cert; 64-bit versions of Windows will not load unsigned drivers. A normal copy of Windows will not accept the fake certificate, meaning the installation process also has to modify Windows' certificate store — how it does this is not yet known. The Digitask development team also seems to have cribbed additional rootkit techniques and, in addition to the familiar AppInit technique, appears to have implemented a new method of activating the trojan library with the target process' privileges.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Kaspersky-discovers-new-version-of-German-state-sponsored-trojan-1363335.html

- 35. October 18, msnbc.com (International) 'Son of Stuxnet' virus could be used to attack critical computers worldwide. A powerful new computer virus that some are calling the "Son of Stuxnet" has infected critical infrastructure computers around the world, msnbc.com reported October 17. The new worm, dubbed Dugu, does not have the narrow focus of Stuxnet. But it shares so much code with the original virus that researchers at Symantec Corp. said it must either have been created by the same group that authored Stuxnet, or by a group that somehow managed to obtain Stuxnet's source code. "There is a common trait among the (computers) being attacked," a Symantec researcher said. "They involve industrial command and control systems." Symantec speculates that Duqu is gathering intelligence as a precursor to a future attacks. At the moment, Duqu only creates a back door into infected systems, connecting them to a command computer somewhere in India. No marching orders have yet been given, the researcher said. Duqu is so similar to Stuxnet that F-Secure's antivirus program initially identified it as Stuxnet, according to F-Secure's chief research officer. The virus is designed to leave the back door open for precisely 36 days, and then self-destruct. Symantec was first alerted to the existence of Duqu October 14, when an unnamed security firm that had already worked with a Europe-based victim shared its research with the firm. Symantec researchers worked through the weekend of October 15 and 16 trying to understand the virus. Their analysis shows Duqu may have been used to surveil computers around the world as far back as December 2010. McAfee researchers said in a blog post that both Stuxnet and Duqu utilize fraudulent "stolen" digital certificates that had been issued to companies in Taiwan. The use of what appear to be real digital certificate keys make both programs particularly deceptive. Source: http://redtape.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/10/18/8384786-son-of-stuxnetvirus-could-be-used-to-attack-critical-computers-worldwide
- 36. October 18, Infosecurity (International) DDoS attacks against e-commerce sites last 40% longer, says VeriSign. Verisign noted that since January 1, 2011, DDoS attacks mitigated by the company for its e-commerce customers lasted significantly longer than the DDoS attacks it mitigated for all other customer verticals combined, Infosecurity reported October 18. The longer time for DDoS attacks targeting e-commerce sites is the result of the complexity of the attacks, the value of the sites, and the persistence of the attackers, according to the vice president of technology with VeriSign's Network Intelligence and Availability Group. In a report issued in the spring of 2011, Verisign

noted that successful DDoS attacks can bring down sites for hours or even days, causing businesses to suffer losses in the millions and damaging a company's brand and customer relationships. In addition, attacks against the Domain Name System (DNS) result in significant downtime for top-ranked e-commerce sites, according to Verisign's State of DNS Availability Report for the second quarter of 2011. The report was prepared by ThousandEyes, which calculated the minimum, maximum, and average DNS availability of 1,000 Web sites during the second quarter.

Source: http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/21416/

For another story, see item 38

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at $\underline{sos@us-cert.gov}$ or visit their Web site: $\underline{http://www.us-cert.gov}$

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: https://www.it-isac.org

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Communications Sector

37. October 18, WBIR 10 Knoxville – (Tennessee) Service should be restored after outage in several counties. According to a statement by AT&T officials at 10:10 p.m. October 18, service should be restored to AT&T customers in parts of East Tennessee after customer's experienced outages earlier in the day. The company was investigating the cause of the problem. Dispatchers at 911 centers in Roane, Morgan, and Fentress counties said service was back up and running. Dispatchers in Scott County said service was "spotty." For several hours they had to find other ways to cover emergency calls. Emergency calls from Roane county were routed to Loudon County, while calls originating from Morgan County were routed to Anderson County during the outage. The lines went dead around 4 p.m. October 18. The director of the 911 operations center in Roane County said 911 service was disrupted for about 15 minutes while the calls were re-routed to Loudon County. He said there were no problems during that time. According to the 911 director for Roane County, officials believe a fiber optic line was cut along Highway 70 in Roane County. There is road construction going on in that area, but the director was not sure exactly where the line may have been damaged.

Source: http://www.wbir.com/news/article/188065/2/Service-should-be-restored-after-outage-in-several-counties

38. *October 18, Williamson Daily News* – (Kentucky) **Ky. house fire causes fiber network outage.** A fire blazed its way through a Warfield, Kentucky, house October 14 and left far more reaching problems for thousands of residents in a four-county area, Williamson Daily News reported October 18. According to the Warfield Volunteer Fire Department chief, the fire leveled the non-occupied dwelling in very little time. However, he said, the impact was widespread, as about 300 feet of a main fiber

network cable for Sudden Link Cable was burned. Residents in Logan, Martin, Mingo, and Pike counties who subscribe to various services offered by Sudden Link were without telephone, television, and Internet for 12 or more hours. Sudden Link crews arrived at the fire scene early October 15 and worked into the afternoon to restore services. The fire chief, who is also an employee of Sudden Link, said the burned cable carried 165 fiber optic lines. This particular line travels through Kermit and Warfield. Farther down, the line branches out to serve businesses and households in the affected areas.

Source: http://www.firehouse.com/topic/firefighter-safety/wva-house-fire-causes-fiber-network-outage

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Commercial Facilities Sector

- 39. October 18, KSFY 13 Sioux Falls (South Dakota) Sioux Falls Police confirm another garage fire in a recent string of arsons. Police confirmed another arson in the central Sioux Falls area, KSFY 13 Sioux Falls reported October 18. That brings the count up to about 16 in the same neighborhood in the past few months. This most recent fire happened at a garage. The fire damaged part of the garage door, melted some of the siding, and took out part of a privacy fence. Police said it happened either late October 16 or early October 17. An officer with the Sioux Falls Police Department said they are trying to figure out who is responsible for the arsons. He said they are "trying to figure out if it's one person or two or more, the other thing too, we don't necessarily know whether these are all related, I mean, we believe they are."

 Source: http://www.ksfy.com/story/15726423/police-confirm-another-garage-in-a-recent-string-of-arsons
- 40. October 18, Miami Herald (Florida) Several homes damaged by apparent tornado touchdown in Sunrise, Plantation. A tornado spawned by foul weather October 18 reportedly touched down in Sunrise, Florida damaging several homes near Sawgrass Mall, according to reports received by the National Weather Service. The tornado or strong system moved north into western Broward at around 10 p.m. and may have done most of the damage in the cities of Sunrise and Plantation. The tornado touchdown will not be confirmed by the weather service until October 19, officials said. Officials at the scene said it appeared a tornado had struck the homes. There were reports of damage to up to 20 homes, and debris was spread across several blocks. Most of the serious damage appeared to be in Sunrise. The Plantation fire battalion chief said there were reports of residents briefly trapped inside their homes. By midnight, Florida Power and Light said there were nearly 800 homes left without power in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Fallen trees were also blocking roads in the area, he said.

 Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/10/18/2460851/news-alert-report-of-tornado.html
- 41. *October 18, Boston Herald* (Massachusetts) **Collapsed building had order for demolition.** The owner of an East Boston, Massachusetts building that collapsed October 16 was directed to tear down the property more than a month ago but

"ignored" a court order, city officials said. A Boston Housing Court judge September 16 ordered the 4-story building demolished, said an inspectional services spokeswoman. She said the vacant building, which collapsed late October 16 and damaged adjacent buildings, had previously partially collapsed. The collapse forced officials to evacuate several neighboring buildings. There are "structural concerns" with other adjacent buildings, three of which remained empty October 17. Source: http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1374154

For more stories, see items **28**, **29**, **36**, **42**, and **47**

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

42. *October 19, Alexandria Town Talk* – (Louisiana) **10,000 reward offered in arson wildfire.** Officials are hoping a \$10,000 reward will lead to an arrest in a Natchitoches Parish arson fire that destroyed 10 homes, and caused more than \$7 million in damage in Louisiana, Alexandria Town Talk reported October 18. The September 2 wildfire was intentionally set, the Louisiana Agriculture and Forestry commissioner said at a news conference held in Saline at the scorched site where the Natchitoches Parish sheriff's deputy's home was consumed by the fire. Ten homes were destroyed, and the fire burned nearly 5,000 acres of timberland, and 35 outbuildings. Timber losses were estimated at \$5 million, in addition to \$2 million to \$3 million in lost homes and other items.

Source: http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20111019/NEWS01/110190331

43. October 19, Associated Press – (California) Kern County wildfire 70 percent contained. Firefighters have made progress against a wildfire that at one point threatened buildings next to Lake Isabella, California in the southern Sierra Nevada, the Associated Press reported October 19. The Kern County Fire Department said the 20-acre fire was 70 percent contained late October 18. The fire broke out early October 18 in the unincorporated community of Wofford Heights. County fire officials said the fire was started by a resident using a metal grinder.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci 19145032

44. *October 17*, *Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) Engineers inspect Washington National Cathedral. The same engineers who rappelled down the Washington Monument began a similar operation October 17 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the other major landmark to be damaged by an earthquake that shook the nation's capital. The "difficult access team" from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) began its work October 17. Two engineers using ropes and harnesses worked their way down the front of the building. The inspection is expected to last about 2 weeks, said an official with WJE's Fairfax, Virginia, office who is supervising the project. The engineers are looking for loose, cracked, or unstable stones that could pose a risk to people on the ground. Those stones will be removed before the cathedral's scheduled reopening November 12.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/10/17/travel/main20121662.shtml

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Dams Sector

45. October 19, Pocono Record – (Pennsylvania) Skytop dam upgrade to cost more than \$1M. Skytop Lodge in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, will spend more than \$1 million on a state-mandated dam upgrade by 2016, resort and state officials said October 19. A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which oversees dams in the state, said the lake will likely be drawn down about 3 feet. The dam at the lake on the Skytop property is classified as a "high hazard" dam because of the potential damage it could cause if it is breached. The Skytop dam, which holds back water that eventually flows into Brodhead Creek, can handle about 4,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water flow, the spokesman said. The probable maximum flood flow would be about 22.450 cfs.

Source:

http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111019/NEWS/11019033 2/-1/news

- 46. October 18, Gloucester Times (Massachusetts) Gloucester's dam hazards. The state auditor's division of local mandates assessed the condition of Massachusetts' 2,892 dams last year and found that 75 percent of the municipally owned dams can be categorized as being either high or significant hazards, four of which are in Gloucester, Massachusetts, the Gloucester Times reported October 18. Of Gloucester's 17 dams and dikes, three of the them are deemed "highly hazardous" while a fourth the south dike at Fernwood Lake is the city-owned barrier listed as a "significant hazard." While not disputing the state's claims on Gloucester's four unsafe dams, the city public works director said the city had no means by which to fund the needed repairs. The lake's north dam and west dam were built in 1877 and are the ones that are considered highly hazardous. The south dike was built in 1900 and is considered significantly hazardous. Source: http://www.gloucestertimes.com/local/x1372403478/Gloucesters-dam-hazards
- 47. *October 18*, *WPBF 25 Tequesta* (Florida) **Spillways open as Palm Beaches get soaked.** Spillways across Palm Beach County, Florida were open as the area took a second day of soaking rains, WPBF 25 Tequesta reported. The South Florida Water Management District said the decision was made to open the water control structures October 18. The move allows drainage canals to empty out into the Atlantic Ocean. And this prevents them from backing up and flooding yards, streets, and homes. Officials said the plan appeared to be working because no municipality was reporting any kind of serious flooding.

Source: http://www.wpbf.com/news/29519719/detail.html

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